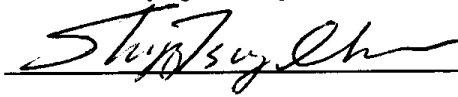
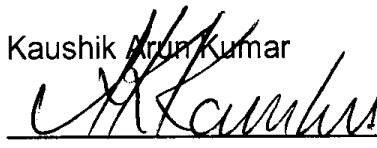
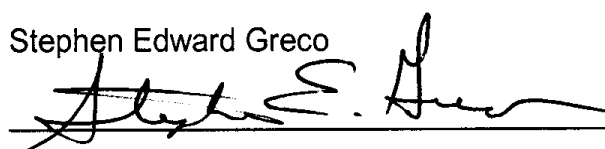

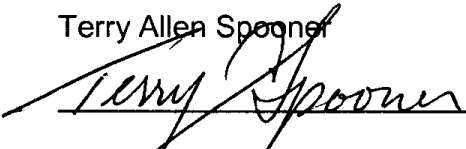
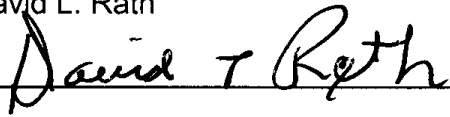



transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: All registered patent practitioners associated with Customer Number 032074;

Send all correspondence to: H. Daniel Schnurmann, Intellectual Property Law, IBM Corporation, Dept. 18G, Building 300-482, 2070 Route 52, Hopewell Junction, New York 12533.

Direct Telephone Calls to: H. Daniel Schnurmann 845-894-2481

-
- (1) Inventor: Steven Shyng-Tsong T. Chen
Signature:  8/18/2004
Date
Residence: 111 Cornwall Meadows, Patterson, New York 12563
Citizenship: United States of America
Post Office Address: Same as residence.
- (2) Inventor: Kaushik Arun Kumar
Signature:  08/19/04
Date
Residence: 14F South Lockey Woods Rd., Beacon, New York 12508
Citizenship: India
Post Office Address: Same as residence.
- (3) Inventor: Stephen Edward Greco
Signature:  8-20-04
Date
Residence: 77 Harden Dr., Lagrangeville, New York 12540
Citizenship: United States of America
Post Office Address: Same as residence.

- (4) Inventor: Shom Ponoth
 Signature:  08/19/04
 Date
 Residence: 6 Greenhill Dr.# 26C, Fishkill, New York 12524
 Citizenship: India
 Post Office Address: Same as residence.
- (5) Inventor: Terry Allen Spooner
 Signature:  8/19/04
 Date
 Residence: Two Laurelwood Dr., New Fairfield, Connecticut 06812
 Citizenship: United States of America
 Post Office Address: Same as residence.
- (6) Inventor: David L. Rath
 Signature:  8/19/04
 Date
 Residence: 14 Ritter Rd., Stormville, New York 12582
 STORMVILLE DLR
 Citizenship: United States of America
 Post Office Address: Same as residence.
- (7) Inventor: Wei-Tsu Tseng
 Signature:  08/23/04
 Date
 Residence: 77 Frances Dr., Hopewell Junction, New York 12533
 Citizenship: United States of America
 Post Office Address: Same as residence

Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

MAINTAINING UNIFORM CMP HARD MASK THICKNESS

the specification of which (check one)

☒

is attached hereto.

☐

was filed on ____ as Application Serial No. _____ and was amended on _____.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above- identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s):

Number	Country	Day/Month/Year	Priority Claimed
--------	---------	----------------	------------------

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information material to the patentability of this application as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Prior U.S. Applications:

Serial No.	Filing Date	Status
------------	-------------	--------

N/A

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application and